

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09935 122106Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /125 W
-----002907 131212Z /53

R 121825Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1376
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 09935

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, UR, EFIS
SUBJ: SOVIET RESTRICTIONS ON EC FISHING IN BARENTS SEA

1. MISSION HAS LEARNED FROM EC COMMISSION SOURCES THAT
SOVIET EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE TO
BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON AUGUST 5 INFORMING THE GOB
IN ITS EC COUNCIL PRESIDENCY CAPACITY THAT FISHING
ACTIVITY BY "EC VESSELS" IN THE BARENTS SEA WOULD BE
SUBJECT TO SEVERE RESTRICTIONS, IN LINE WITH THOSE
INTRODUCED BY THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS EAST EUROPEAN STATES
SOON AFTER THE CREATION OF A 200-MILE EC FISHERY ZONE
IN EARLY 1977. OUR COMMISSION SOURCES, WHO HAVE
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EMPHASIZED TO US THAT THE DEMARCHE IS NOT YET PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE, ARE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE BRUSQUE TONE
SET BY THE SOVIET AIDE MEMOIRE AND BY THE SEVERITY OF THE
CUTBACKS IMPOSED. WHILE EC FISHING ACTIVITY IN THE
BARENTS SEA HAD BEEN RESTRICTED BY MUTUAL, THOUGH
INFORMAL, AGREEMENT TO AROUND 40 VESSELS, THE SOVIETS
ANNOUNCED THAT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EC VESSELS TO BE

PERMITTED IN THAT AREA WOULD HENCEFORTH BE THREE (IN THE 2,000 TO 4,000 TON RANGE) AND THAT THE EC QUOTA, RETROACTIVE TO JULY 1, WOULD BE 2,765 TONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER (ROUGHLY TEN PERCENT OF PREVIOUS THREE-MONTH CATCH AVERAGES).

2. AN EC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP DECIDED AUGUST 10 ON A REPLY WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER BY BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, ACCOMPANIED BY COMMISSION FISHERIES DIRECTOR SIMONNET, ON AUGUST 12. ACCORDING TO OUR COMMISSION SOURCES, THE NOTE EXPRESSES SURPRISE AT THE MANNER AND TONE OF THE SOVIET AIDE MEMOIRE AND EMPHASIZES BOTH THE POSITIVE SPIRIT WITH WHICH THE COMMUNITY HAS PURSUED FISHING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS SO FAR AND THE GRAVE SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE CREATED IF THE SOVIETS PERSIST WITH THESE MEASURES. THE NOTE WARNS THAT, IF THE SOVIET MEASURES CONTINUE, THE COMMUNITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES OF ITS OWN. THE EC NOTE REFERS THROUGHOUT TO THE "MEASURES ENVISAGED BY THE SOVIETS," ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET AIDE MEMOIRE MAKES CLEAR THAT THOSE MEASURES ARE ALREADY IN FORCE, LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE SOVIETS TO BACK DOWN GRACEFULLY. THE EC NOTE CONCLUDES BY ASKING FOR A REPLY.

3. OUR SOURCES DO NOT KNOW HOW THE NEW SOVIET MEASURES WILL AFFECT CURRENT ACTIVITY BY FRENCH AND GERMAN VESSELS
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IN THE BARENTS SEA. NOR WILL THEY SPECULATE, FOR THE MOMENT, ON THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS THESE MEASURES MAY HAVE ON THE NEXT ROUND OF EC/SOVIET FISHING NEGOTIATIONS, SET FOR SEPTEMBER 15 IN BRUSSELS (AT WHICH FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV IS EXPECTED TO HEAD THE SOVIET SIDE).
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